



**The House of Representatives
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEWS RELEASE

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**HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES EMERGENCY
APPROPRIATION FOR STORM RECOVERY**

HONOLULU. The House Finance Committee today approved an emergency appropriation request of \$14,334,000 (House Bill 970, HD1) to cover the costs related to the storm recovery efforts, primarily on Kauai and Oahu.

"The legislature is moving as quickly as possible to make these funds available for the community," said Rep. Bertha Kawakami, Vice-chairwoman of the House Finance Committee. "Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to those who suffered such a tremendous loss of life and property. Through this action, we take an important step in preventing disaster for the future." Representative Kawakami represents the people of Kauai, District 16 – Waimea, Koloa, as well as the island of Niihau.

The funds will be used to cover the costs related to recovering from the storms hitting the state over the past three weeks. Most of the costs are anticipated to go toward the Kaloko dam breach recovery effort on Kauai. Monies will also be used to hire consultants to determine the structural integrity of dams and reservoirs statewide, to assess potential risks, and to preserve dam safety for the future.

"In talking to members of the Kauai community, their main concern is that the state addresses the potential structural failures of the dams and reservoirs so that a disaster of this magnitude can never happen again," said Rep. Ezra Kanoho, Chair of the Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee. "I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the families who lost loved ones in this tragedy. Part of the healing will come from lessons learned and in making Kauai and the rest of the state a safer place for our families and children." Representative Kanoho represents District 15 – Lihue, Koloa.

(more)

Following is a breakdown of the requested funding by department:

\$50,000 - Department of Agriculture. Staff expenses and consultants to assess the impact existing dams and reservoirs have on agricultural operations.

\$1,000,000 – Department of the Attorney General. Staff expenses, consultants and experts to review legal issues related to dam and reservoir failures. Expenses related to possible litigation concerning dam and reservoir failure.

\$2,000,000 – Department of Defense. State civil defense twenty-four-hour emergency operations center overtime costs. Contractors helping to pump reservoirs to maintain safer water levels. National guard personnel on state active duty status. Blackhawk helicopter operating expenses.

\$5,000,000 – Department of Land and Natural Resources. Surveys, studies and assessments of private and government owned dams and reservoirs statewide to determine their current physical integrity. Assessments shall include recommendations for future structural needs and identification of potential effects or threats to areas around and downstream of the dams and reservoirs.

\$284,000 – Department of Land and Natural Resources. To assess flood damage at state parks and on state lands.

\$2,000,000 – Department of Transportation. Equipment rentals and contractors to repair road damage and stabilization of road embankments on Kuhio Highway, Kauai.

\$800,000 state funds and \$3,200,000 federal funds – Department of Transportation. Capital improvement projects for emergency roadway erosion remediation at various locations on Kauai, including guardrails and should stabilization, retaining walls, drainage structures and other improvements.

"I believe that Kauai will continue to feel the impact of the Kaloko dam breach disaster for months to come," said Representative Hermina Morita, Chairwoman of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. "Our Kauai delegation at the legislature recognizes how much work needs to be done on behalf of farmers, businesses and residents. We are working in cooperation with the state and county administrations to ensure that Kauai has the resources it needs to recover quickly and successfully." Representative Morita represents District 14 – Hanalei, Kapaa, Anahola. The Kaloko reservoir is located in her district.

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